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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT POW Camps in North Korea

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.POW Camp for Air Force Personnel Near Chail-li¹

- In May 1952 a POW camp for air force personnel was at YD-267497, near Chail-li (125-37, 39-16) (YD-2649). The prisoners appeared to be undernourished. There were, on an average, three or four prisoners in the sick bay. The sick were treated by doctors from a nearby Chinese Communist ambulance unit. Inoculations were given the prisoners by three male nurses from this same unit. The prisoners were told that the inoculations were necessary to protect them against United Nations germ warfare. The inoculations caused a fever and the prisoners were suspicious of them. Recreation including volleyball and swimming was provided at irregular times and prisoners were encouraged by the guards to participate. The games were short and the few that participated did not play vigorously. Attendance at propaganda classes was compulsory and two or three of the prisoners were eager to study Communist ideology. Most of them were not interested although there were occasional heated discussions over some of the lecture questions. The prisoners were represented by a leader. Those caught attempting to escape were deprived of meals or forced to write a self-criticism as punishment. In case of a successful escape, the leader of the prisoners was to be severely punished. Beatings were not allowed. There was a roll call. The guards, who were regular North Korean army troops, treated the prisoners well. They made regular rounds of the camp and the buildings at night.

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POW Camp Near Chail-li

2. Prior to June 1952 a POW camp with United States prisoners was in five large houses at YD-267497, near Chail-li.² The first house was at YD-272497, the second at YD-265487, the third at YD-273477, the fourth at YD-300503, and the fifth at YD-296508. In June 120 prisoners were moved to a PW camp at Kangdong (126-05, 39-09) (BU-4837).³ On 8 October the 56 North Korean army Evacuation Hospital was in the houses vacated by the POW's. One company of troops was at YD-374505, another company 600 meters north of Chail-li, and another company 2 miles south of Chail-li. The headquarters for these companies was at YD-374505.

POW Camp at Sungho-ri

3. In July 1952 a POW camp was at a former mine at YD-573201, near Sungho-ri (125-58, 38-59) (YD-5719). In June, 80 United States and 120 ROK prisoners were held in the 12 mine pits which made up the camp. There were about 20 men to each cave-like room and the Korean and United States prisoners were separated. Two meals were served per day with each man receiving 150 grams of corn and salt at each meal. Clothing or bedding had not been issued and the prisoners slept on boards and straw mats. There were no medical facilities at the camp. North Korean army surgeons made routine visits and gave only routine first aid treatment. An average of 10 prisoners died each month. The death rate was higher for the United States prisoners than for the Koreans. Three hours of Communist lectures and political indoctrination were given daily. Communist books and North Korean newspapers were used. The prisoners were screened several times a day during their first month at the camp. ROK soldiers who were converted were put in labor service teams and sent to rear areas. Prisoners were not allowed to leave the mine. The camp was guarded by members of the local armed self-defense unit.

POW Camp Near Ch'ang-ni

4. In early September a POW camp, with about 1,250 United Nations prisoners, was in six large barracks, 70 meters long, 5 meters wide, and 3 meters high, at XE-877796, southwest of Ch'ang-ni (125-12, 40-27) (XE-8780). Only United States prisoners were seen. The barracks had earthen walls and cement roofs. The prisoners lived four to a room. They were fed mostly bread and appeared underfed. Some of the prisoners wore their old uniforms and others wore blue fatigues. The camp was garrisoned by 150 Chinese Communist troops.

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2. ☐ Comment. This camp is almost certainly the same as the one described in paragraph 1.

- 25X1A 3. ☐ Comment. ☐ from a different source, reported 80 Caucasian
25X1A prisoners believed to be Americans and 150 ROK prisoners in Kangdong in
late June 1952.

Enclosures: 2 charts

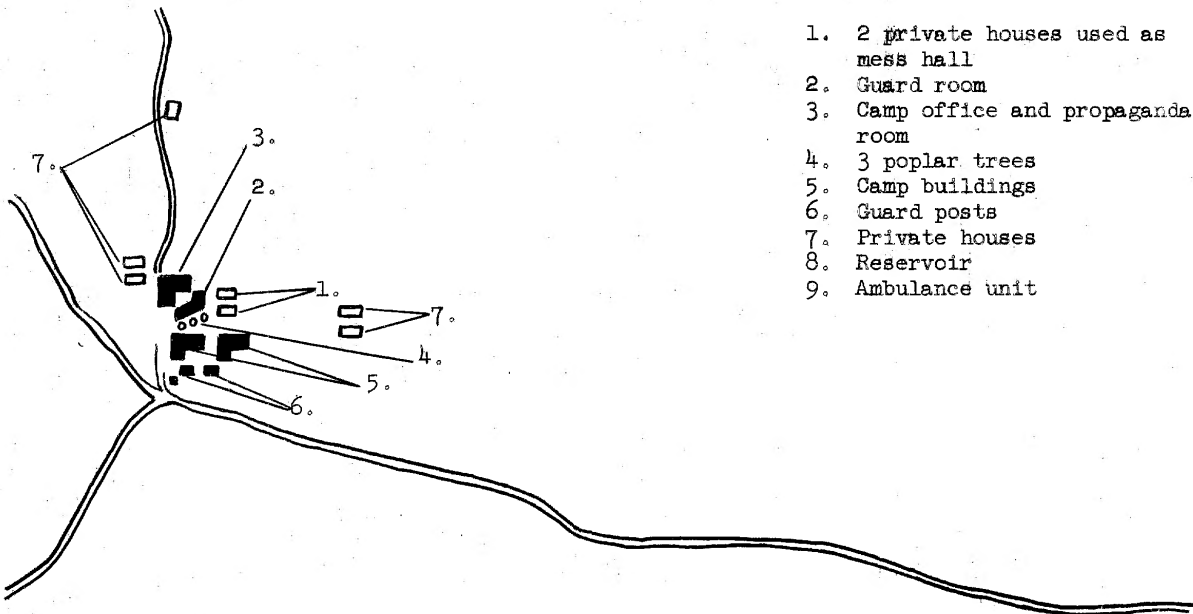
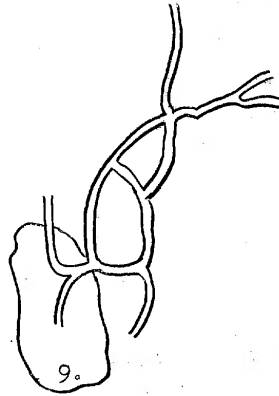
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ATTACHMENT A

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DIAGRAM OF POW CAMP AT YD-267497*



1. 2 private houses used as mess hall
2. Guard room
3. Camp office and propaganda room
4. 3 poplar trees
5. Camp buildings
6. Guard posts
7. Private houses
8. Reservoir
9. Ambulance unit

* This diagram was made from an overlay which was made from air photo 14 W 67 RIS R11 97B 151RS 5 AF 22 July 1952.

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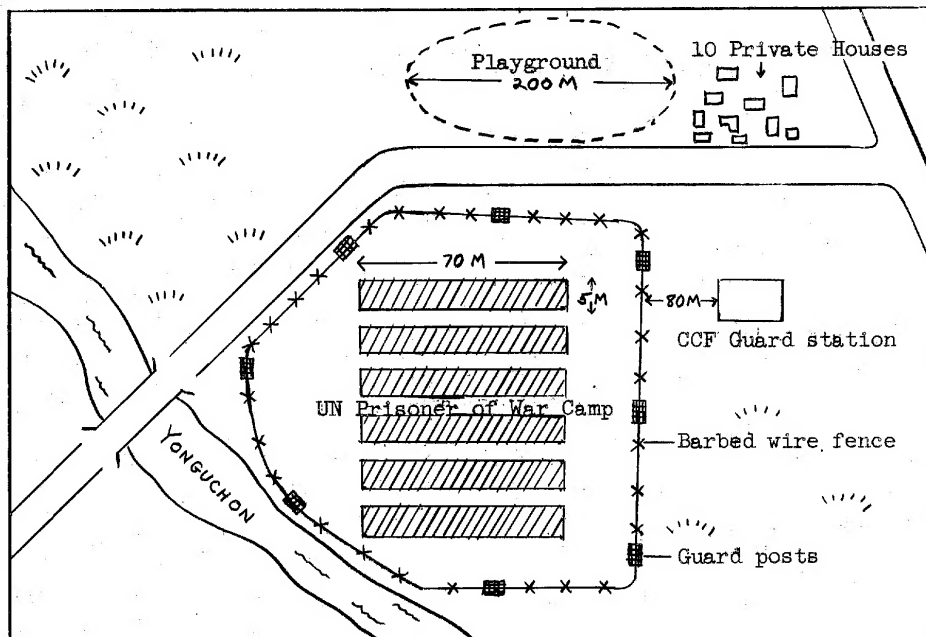
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ATTACHMENT B

DIAGRAM OF POW CAMP AT XE-877796



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